

diagnostic agents, proteins, peptides, hormones, antibodies and fragments thereof, oligonucleotides, plasmids, DNAs, interleukins, interferons and enzymes and fragments thereof.

55. A synthetic polymer for a polymer-based carrier vehicle or vector for delivery of DNA or other nucleic acid material to target cells in a biological system, comprising a linear monofunctional or multifunctional poly- $\alpha$ -amino-acid derivative having at least glutamic or aspartic or serinic repeating units in the polymer backbone and additionally having a functional group at one or both ends of the polymer backbone, the said functional end group(s) being other than alcohol.
56. A synthetic polymer for a polymer-based carrier vehicle or vector according to claim 55, further comprising a synthetic vector component such as polyethyleneimine, poly-L-lysine, a star-shaped dendrimer or chitosan.
57. A method of treatment of a patient in need of such treatment, comprising administration to said patient of a biologically-active ingredient modified by or a nucleic acid material carried by a polymer system comprising a linear monofunctional or multifunctional poly- $\alpha$ -amino-acid derivative having at least glutamic or aspartic or serinic repeating units in the polymer backbone and additionally having a functional group at one or both ends of the polymer backbone, the said functional end group(s) being other than alcohol.

#### **REMARKS**

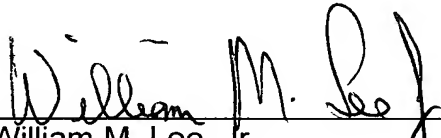
The above amendments are being made in order to eliminate multiple dependency and improper multiple dependency before calculation of the national filing fee for the United States. Should any multiple dependency remain, that is unintended, and the Patent and Trademark Office is requested

to cancel any remaining multiple dependent claims without prejudice before calculation of the filing fee.

Examination of the application on its merits is awaited.

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Respectfully submitted,

  
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